

## **Emergency Watershed Protection Program – Floodplain Easement Project Showcase**

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### **Chewonki Foundation Floodplain Easement and Restoration Project Wiscasset (Lincoln County) Maine**

**Easement Cost - \$33,490   Restoration Cost - \$194,310**

#### **Basic Easement Information**

- This project acquired 34 acres of conservation easement.
- Restoration activities performed on this easement include: (1) removal of the Montsweag concrete dam that currently floods 17 acres of floodplain, and (2) reestablish native riparian vegetation on the newly-reopened floodplain.
- This project provided approximately 4,200 feet of improved riparian buffer along Montsweag Brook, which is proposed to be critical habitat for the Gulf of Maine Distinct Population Segment of Atlantic salmon, listed as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act. Designation of critical habitat is anticipated to become official by June 1, 2009.
- This project opened 2.2 miles of stream habitat along Montsweag Brook, which is currently a barrier to fish and other aquatic organism passage.

#### **Additional Information**

- The land enrolled had 17 acres that were submerged under the permanent pool of Montsweag Dam . An additional 17 acres were enrolled in the floodplain upstream from the flooded pool, and provided an additional 1.4 miles of riparian buffer along Montsweag Brook.
- Once riparian vegetation was reestablished, little, if any, maintenance of the easement restoration is needed.
- At the time of the proposed dam removal, the dam had little, if any, beneficial use for supplying water or flood protection.
- The dam was a low-hazard dam.

This funding restored frequently-flooded land to its natural state; created jobs in rural communities where landowners establish the floodplain easements, and opened several miles of stream habitat that was previously a barrier to fish passage for local and non-local fishermen.



Before



After